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NEWS RELEASE

April 10, 2008

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UM CENTER OFFERS NIH EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

MISSOULA—

The Center for Environmental Health Sciences at The University of Montana has received a grant from the National Institutes of Health to launch a new program called Short Term Educational Experiences for Research.

The STEER program provides innovative research opportunities for up to eight motivated high school students and undergraduate students in the environmental health sciences -- a research-oriented biomedical field not typically available to them through their regular courses of study. It is designed to foster student interest in pursuing graduate studies and professional careers in toxicology and the environmental health sciences.

The grant was awarded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, whose mission, like that of the UM Center for Environmental Sciences, is to better understand how environmental agents affect human health and increase the risk of disease.

The program's laboratory experiences and information exchange will introduce young students to research on the human health aspects following environmental exposure and how exposure alters biologic processes and influences the development and distribution of disease in populations.

High school students who have completed the ninth grade and undergraduates who will have completed at least one year of college are eligible to apply to the program, which starts June 16 and lasts eight weeks. Program participants will receive a stipend.

Applications are due by Tuesday, April 22. For more information about the program, eligibility requirements and the application form, go online to

<http://www.umt.edu/cehs/STEER.html>.

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